of the very large units of administration (i.e. the district and the development blocks) the pace of their development has been slower than the rest and also the overall efficiency of administration has been poorer in these units; and

(b) if so, whether the Central Government propose to advise the States to take up an exercise for the reorganisation of these units prescribing optimum areas and population for them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware that units of administration are not uniform in various States in terms of area and population. The issue regarding administrative smanageability came up for consideration in the Workshops of District Magistrates/Collectors on Responsive Administration. Collectors/District Magistrates suggested in the context of local level planning that the size of districts should be such as to make them viable planning and management units. In this connection, it was suggested by the Workshops that as regards population, a district with a population of 15-20 lakhs could be generally considered manageable. owever, a rigid pattern could not be imposed in the matter and the Report of the Workshops urged the State Governments to take a careful look at the district size in the context of local level planning. The report of the Workshop has already been sent to State Chief Secretaries.

Removal of regional imbalances in Madhya Pradesh

2779. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have done any survey to ascertain the level for the removal of regional imbalances under various sectors in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Planning Commission has not undertaken any such survey which is primarily the responsibility of the State Government.

Erosion by river Ganga Padma

2780. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that lands measuring about 30 thousand hectares have gone over to Bangladesh due to the erosion caused by the River Ganga Padma in the district of Murshidabad in West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with Bangladesh Government; and

(c) whether a Committee was set up by Government, headed by Sri Pritam Singh, to go into the problems arising out of the constant erosions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of West Bengal had set up the Committee in the year 1978.

Dangers from Low level Radiation

2781. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the dangers from low level radiation as has emerged from recent studies carried out in Japan ;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the detailed controlled studies carried out by Dr. Robert Rinehart at Sen Diego State University, California, USA which clearly establish that mutational changes brought about in INA were passed on to the off-springs and subsequent generations; and

(c) whether similar studies have been conducted in India ever since food irradiation was introduced on experimental and now commercial basis for food exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) Government have seen the press reports relating to the studies conducted in Japan. There are, however, no sign-ificant health effects demonstrable at low exposures to radiation. There is no direct evidence to show that low doses of radiation can bring about hereditary defects in human beings.

(c) No, Sir,

Decentralisation of Planning at District Level

2782. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPTARA : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have given directive to States to take steps to make decentralised planning at district level for purpose of Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to strengthen the planning machinery at district level ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) It is the intention of the Planning Commission to give high priority to District Planning in the preparation of the Eighth Plan. States were requested by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission vide his letter dated 30th March, 1988 to start the exercise for the formulation of the District Plans so that it may be possible for the State to build up its Five Year Plan on the basis of District Five Year Plans.

(c) There is a scheme of strengthening of the planning machinery at the State and district levels. Financial assistance upto 2/3rd of the expenditure incurred during the year is reimbursed to the States by the Centre for State level planning machinery and on 50:50 basis in respect of district level planning machinery.

Intelligence Base in Australia

2783. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as reported in the Statesman, Calcutta in its issue of